

# State & Local Planning

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET

## What we do:

The State and Local Planning program is the *only* entity looking state-wide at the impacts of growth on our quality of life. We help Utah grow in an intelligent and responsible way by creating tools to help our communities avoid the costs and inefficiencies that come from the lack of planning and coordination.

Utah communities use these tools to protect private property rights, save taxpayers' money, provide efficient public services, and create better, safer, more convenient, and aesthetically pleasing business districts and neighborhoods.

Our services impact all Utahns because we influence:

- Urban sprawl
- Traffic congestion
- Affordable housing
- Economic and community development
- Clean air and water
- Recreation, critical lands, and wildlife

## Why our work is important:



### Quality of life is vital to economic prosperity.

A region's greatest economic asset is a livable community with free-flowing traffic, clean air and water, attractive natural landscapes, and fabulous places to recreate. We help communities take proactive steps to protect what makes our state attractive to businesses, families, and individuals.



### Utah continues to experience growth pressures.

Utah will add more people in the next decade than it did in the previous one. Growth pressures heighten the need for intergovernmental cooperation in order to protect what Utahns value most about their natural and developed surroundings. We help communities work together on things like infrastructure expansion, which saves taxpayer money.



### Public lands issues are becoming increasingly complex.

As our population grows, so do the increasingly polarized interests in our public lands—lands comprising over 70% of Utah. We represent the state's interests with regards to public lands and work to empower our local governments on these issues.

## Section Duties Defined in State Statute\*

(\*not all inclusive)

Advise the Governor on land use issues, Utah Code 63-28-1

Provide staff support to the Utah Quality Growth Commission, Utah Code 11-38-201(7)a

Administer the LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund, Utah Code 11-38-301

Coordinate local governments' land use plans and provide them with technical assistance, Utah Code 63-28-4

Provide staff support to the Legislative Compensation Commission, Utah Code 36-2-4(6)

Act as a member of the State Homeless Coordinating Committee, Utah Code 9-4-801(2)(a)

Oversee the Resource Development Coordinating Committee, Utah Code 63-28a-1

Act as a member of the Utah Tomorrow Strategic Planning Committee, Utah Code 36-18-1(2)(a)(iv)(A)

Please see some of our successes on the back. —————>

# Q&A

## **Q. How does the State and Local Planning program help with public lands issues?**

- A.** We help with public lands issues in two ways: First, by empowering Utah's cities and counties with a seat at the table as federal lands agencies make decisions which affect our state. And secondly, we represent the state's interests and ensure the state's policies and concerns regarding public lands are met. For example:
- We recently provided educational presentations to county commissioners in several counties to help them understand the complex Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Our goal was to empower these elected officials with information needed to understand federal land management in their counties.
  - We are currently conducting socio-economic studies of 13 counties in Utah to help the U.S. Forest Service recognize and respect the linkages between their forests and our communities.

## **Q. Is land use planning a violation of private property rights?**

- A.** We work to provide local governments with the resources they need to plan in ways that protect private property rights. We help local elected officials find a balance between property owner's rights and the community's right for health, safety, and welfare. For example:
- We train local elected officials through the Utah Local Government's Trust *Community Planner Workshop*. This ensures local elected officials understand how to appropriately regulate land uses in ways that protect private property rights while also protecting a community's quality of life.
  - We support the state's private property rights ombudsman and the ombudsman's private property rights conferences in an effort to help local planners, attorneys, and elected officials understand land use law.

## **Q. What kinds of tools does the State and Local Planning program create to help local governments deal with growth challenges?**

- A.** We research, produce and distribute tools and information that help Utah local governments accommodate population growth and changing land use patterns in ways that make our state, communities, and neighborhoods more safe, livable, and convenient.
- We also provide communities with technical planning assistance, when needed. For example:
- We help rural communities develop sustainable economic development through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Program. This program provides communities with a series of assessments that help them prepare for the changes of the new economy. Over 100 Utah local governments are involved in the program, and Governor Leavitt has awarded 16 communities the highest level of achievement in the program.
  - We produced a computer application which helps communities develop more cost efficient infrastructure systems. We have trained over 100 local governments representatives on how to use this application. The application—known as MIPCOM—is available at no cost to all Utah local governments.
  - We provide planning services to communities that cannot afford them. These services are provided through circuit rider planners located in each of the state's association of governments.

## **Q. Why is the state involved in planning? Isn't land use planning done at the local level in Utah?**

- A.** We do not prepare land use plans. The legislature has given land use planning authority to local governments under the Land Use Development and Management Act. Instead, we help to coordinate planning efforts across jurisdictional boundaries and provide a perspective and communication mechanism that is state-wide in scope. For example:
- We coordinate local, state, and federal interests in the Jordan River corridor with regard to recreation and preservation. We helped organize and staff the Jordan River Natural Areas Forum, which helps various local, state and federal agencies meet their respective recreation and preservation goals along the river corridor.